

RE: SBC/PACIFIC BELL'S ENTRY INTO THE LONG DISTANCE MARKET OF CALIFORNIA

I would like to indicate my support for the above since it will provide several benefits for all of California, but in particular our senior population.

1. Increased large-scale competition should impact the market and result in lowered costs for long-distance service.

2. Pacific Bell has publicly announced it intends to not subject its customers to hidden fees and usage charges which for seniors is significant. Financial abuse has many facets, but anything that confuses or entices seniors to make wrong decisions against their well being should be avoided.

3. Simplification for decisions regarding service provider selection.

I strongly urge you to move forward and approve the application to provide Californians what they want: savings, service and freedom of choice.